

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-46 are currently before the Examiner. Claims 26-39 and 41-46 are currently rejected and claim 40 is currently objected to. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 46 is new.

New claim 46 incorporates the current objected claim 40 with current rejected claims 36, 31 and 26.

Claims 26-39 and 41-46 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen *et al.* (US 4,169,736). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention teaches a method for enhancing the water repellency of an inorganic hydraulic binder composition comprising the step of adding a sufficient amount of at least one monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid to the composition. Nielsen *et al.* does not anticipate, teach or suggest applicants claimed invention of limiting the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid to the formula $C_nH_{(2n-1)}OO^-X^+$ wherein $n = 4$ to 18 and X is an alkali metal.

Applicant's currently claims a hydraulic binder composition wherein the length of the hydrocarbon chain of the carboxylic acids are between 4 and 18. Through experimentation, it has been found that limiting the size of the hydrocarbon chain ensures that the adhesives have sufficient viscosity to flow (see example 1) in addition to decreasing the amount of water uptake by capillary action (see table 4). Nielsen *et al.* do not teach or suggest this limitation or these benefits. Nielsen *et al.* only suggest combining an alkali extract of a lignocellulosic material with a fatty acid, without any limitation to the hydrocarbon chain. Therefore, Nielsen *et al.* do not disclose the ability to produce an inorganic hydraulic binder composition that has the ability to flow nor do they disclose the ability to enhance water repellency of an inorganic hydraulic binder composition. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

USSN 10/538,681

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If it would be of assistance with this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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